



Farm Kitchen, Bakery, Deli & Market
1545 Main Street
Mukwonago, WI 53149

February 16, 2012

Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections,

Pertaining to Senate Bill 458-Relating to authorizing local governments to appoint attendants for special event.

We are a farm market and apple orchard in southeast Wisconsin. Our market is located on the north side of highway ES and our orchard is located on the south side. Our market is open year 'round, however our orchard is only open for 8 weekends in September and October. We have operated our orchard for more than 40 years. Many visitors from across Wisconsin and Northern Illinois visit us for a family fun experience. Our business has grown through the years and we have large numbers of family's visit us on these fall weekends. We offer parking at the market as well as at the orchard. Our visitors do cross the road, which up till 2 years ago didn't even have a pedestrian crossing, and had a speed limit of 45mph. We have always utilized some of our personnel to assist visitors in crossing the road safely.

After years of discussing our concern over this situation with the village and county, we finally were able to have a crosswalk and lowered speed limit implemented a couple of years ago with the assistance of the Mukwonago Police Department and Walworth County. We still use our own personnel dressed in a bright vest to assist our visitors in crossing the road at the crosswalk. We had our crossing guard hold a stop sign to stop vehicles from traveling through the crosswalk. However we have been reprimanded by the State Patrol that we cannot do this because the individual was an untrained crossing guard. Even though there is a crosswalk and the speed limit is 35 mph, vehicles will not stop without an authority stopping them. It has been fortunate that no one has been injured with the numbers of visitors we have each fall.

We want to obey the law and also want to protect our customers, but we need your help in passing this bill.

John & Mike Bauer
Co-owners
The Elegant Farmer

Phone: 262.363.6770 Fax: 262.363.6774
Email: info@elegantfarmer.com Website: elegantfarmer.com
Home of the Apple Pie Baked in a Paper Bag®



**Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections
Senate Bill 458 Testimony
February 16, 2012**

Senate Bill 458 was drafted at the request of the Lt. Ken Pileggi with the Village of Mukwonago Police Department. The bill allows local governments to approve ordinances authorizing the use of trained civilian traffic control attendants to regulate traffic.

Every fall Mukwonago's Elegant Farmer attracts thousands of patrons parking and walking across busy County Road ES. In response, the speed limit has been reduced and a crosswalk established. However, given the high volume of pedestrian traffic, more is necessary to ensure safety on this busy road.

In response, for two years the Village of Mukwonago trained employees of the Elegant Farmer about traffic control. The Elegant Farmer, at their own expense, regulated traffic with private traffic control attendants. Unfortunately, traffic control attendants are not allowed under a law approved during 1932. Under current law, Chapter 349 allows only for civilian crossing guards in the vicinity of a school, not on other roads.

Accordingly, SB 458 allows local municipalities and counties to approve ordinances that allow for civilian traffic control attendants to regulate traffic as long as:

- 1) Any appointment of traffic control attendants must specify dates, times, and locations the appointment is valid.
- 2) The appointed traffic control attendants must be trained.
- 3) The appointed traffic attendants must wear insignia or a uniform that designates they are a traffic control attendant, and they must be equipped with necessary signals and/or signs.

With the loss of the crossing guards at the Elegant Farmer, pedestrian and motorist safety suffered. While this Legislation was originally drafted to assist the Village of Mukwonago, any Wisconsin municipality can take advantage of the increased motorist and pedestrian safety provided by it.

Recently I learned the Village of Waterford has a need for this legislation. Waterford has a traffic control issue on a state highway. They asked assistance of State Patrol. State Patrol explained they do not have the resources to assist. To meet the needs of Waterford, SB 458 has an amendment to allow for traffic control attendants to work at times other than special events.

Thank you for your attention to SB 458.

